

Is that a...is that an existing full-time position now?

SENATOR DAY: Yes, it is.

SENATOR BROMM: And where are they located?

SENATOR DAY: Well, they're based out of Lincoln but she's on the road the majority of the time.

SENATOR BROMM: Okay. And what kind of budget or cost is associated with that position? Do you have an idea?

SENATOR DAY: All I can tell you, Senator Bromm, is when I asked if we had to hire more what the cost would be. They said 50,000 plus level. I mean, that was what they were telling me.

SENATOR BROMM: Okay, for...

SENATOR DAY: That's all I know.

SENATOR BROMM: Okay. And that would be for one more? Okay. Well, first of all, I agree with a lot of what's been said. I know that there's a real frustration on the part of a lot of noncustodial parents when the kids are used in some fashion or other to try to create a lever for support or other issues and I...that has always bothered me a great deal because, as Senator Preister indicated, I mean, the kids...it's not the kids' fault that there's a divorce involved or that the child support isn't being paid or what have you. It's just not their fault and it's wrong to use them in that fashion, and I don't know how many times I've made that argument with people and it just doesn't always...it isn't always listened to. People fail to remember that when they get angry with their former spouse. But, in any event, you know, I guess there...I'm not against the idea at all of finding a way to deal with the visitation issue. I have questions about if this were truly to be effective, about what it would cost and whether we can afford it and whether or not there might be some other things that could be tried before you would put several referees to work. And I...and I would suggest to you that if the public found out that a referee was available to deal with these kinds of things, that another referee would not be nearly enough help. I don't...I don't think that the present referee is meeting much of a need out there because I don't think a lot of people know about it. I, frankly, I don't think a lot of attorneys know about it, that that's available.